Twitter Thread by David Henig

David Henig
@DavidHenigUK

Going to have to disagree with my learned friend here. If anyone moved on level playing field it was the UK, on the principle of a ratchet, or tariffs for divergence which was still being denied midweek. Changing the way in this might be achieved (many options) is insignificant.

> Fish was never a deal breaker. Level playing field was
>
> But LPF now more likely to come together after @EU_Commission move (on trade test for unlocking remedial measures & scope of arbitration over remedial measures)
>
> If it does, expect deal on \U0001f420\U0001f421 too
>
> — Mujtaba Rahman (@Mij_Europe) December 14, 2020

It is the same "I move in principle you move in detail" shift we saw with the Northern Ireland protocol last year, when no PM could accept a border between GB and NI suddenly did, just as recently no PM would accept tariffs for divergence and seems to have done.

So, are we at deal yet? No, and it remains far from certain, but better than the gloom of Saturday. I still think the PM wants his ideal where everyone is happy, still hopes if only he can speak to Macron and Merkel he could get it, still to decide. https://t.co/g02sah3KVc

> Second, I still maintain that Johnson has not made a decision here. Some days he leans towards Deal, sometimes towards No Deal
>
> He has been stuck for weeks, and still is. He\u2019d ideally just not decide *anything*
>
> — Jon Worth (@jonworth) December 14, 2020

And even if there is a deal it is now too late for either business to adjust to it, or the EU to ratify it according to normal procedure. In both cases you'd think we'd need an extension, but there is a big shrug on this whole question. Nobody knows.

And so, yet again on Brexit, we wait. In particular, those who actually do the trade, the businesses we rely on, are forced to wait for a formal outcome while preparing as best they can. Let's see what happens.

Something like this. https://t.co/fUxJgJRWpb

> Is it reasonable to argue there was a movement of principle (UK) and a movement of process (EU)?
>
> — Objective Columnist (@Sime0nStylites) December 14, 2020

Note the additional issues mentioned here, including the unwelcome return of Geographical Indications, the likely futile attempts to change the Withdrawal Agreement. We don't know how serious these might be, or just late sweeteners to the main deal. https://t.co/PoUuAkxjcs

> Mention in @alexwickham London Playbook for the Boris Johnson TV interview yesterday - and heard similar about the half a dozen outstanding issues mentioned in my 10pm live \U0001f447 https://t.co/oC4jRedx2z pic.twitter.com/ogDpDL3jHg
>
> — Sam Coates Sky (@SamCoatesSky) December 14, 2020